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REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and 8-17 are active in the present application. As the claims are believed to be in condition for allowance, reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested.

First, Applicants thank Examiner Cuneo for the courtesies extended during the telephone interview conducted on September 12, 2003. In the interview, Applicants discussed Japanese Patent No. 402278845 (Osada), the present invention, and in particular claims 1-3.

Claims 1-5 and 8-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The Office Action states that the paddle ring outer perimeter including outwardly extending leads is mutually exclusive of the leads/terminals surrounding the outer perimeter, because the outer perimeter includes the leads, and that it cannot surround itself. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The language at issue appears in each of independent claims 1 and 12. The claims have not been amended, as it is believed that, when read in light of the specification and drawings, the claims are clear and definite. As explained to Examiner Cuneo, the perimeter of the ring refers to the ring itself and not to either the spaced projections along the outer and inner perimeters (claims 2 and 3) or the outwardly extending leads that terminate in the first row of terminals. Thus, understanding that the ring itself defines the perimeter and not the outer edge of the leads or spaced projections, then the perimeter is no longer surrounding itself. In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection under §112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

Claims 1-5, 8, 9 and 11-14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Osada. The Office Action

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states that the small, spaced projections 25, extending from the paddle ring 25 terminate in a first row of terminals and that the leads 28 form a second row of terminals. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The present invention is directed to a multi-row leadframe. The leadframe includes a first row of terminals that, prior to singulation, are connected to and extend outwardly from an outer perimeter of a paddle ring. A second row of terminals surrounds the first row of terminals. The terminals of the second row are connected to a connection bar (prior to singulation). The first row of terminals is also connected to the connection bar at a corner thereof. The paddle ring may include inner and/or outer projections that help mechanically lock the paddle with an encapsulant (see Specification, Para. 29).

FIGS. 2 and 3 show the leadframe with the first row of terminals 32 singulated from the paddle ring 22 and the second row of terminals 34 singulated from the connection bar 78 (FIGS. 9 and 10). FIGS. 9-10 show the leadframe prior to singulation (separation of the first row of terminals from the paddle ring and separation of the second row of terminals from the connection bar).

As discussed with Examiner Cuneo, the projections 25, that extend outwardly from the paddle ring 25 of Osada are not terminals or leads. Rather, as explained in the Osada Abstract, the projections fit between leads and are provided for the purpose of preventing resin bleeding during molding operation. To equate the projections to the first row of terminals of the present invention is improper because it ignores the teaching of Osada and also ignores the projections 36, 38 (see FIG. 3 and claims 2-3) of the present invention. Furthermore, to say that the leads 28 of Osada form a second row of terminals is incorrect too. The leads 28 form the only real "row" of

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terminals around the paddle ring 25 of Osada. Finally, even if the leads 28 could be equated with the second row of terminals of the present invention, the leads 28 extend outwardly from the ring, whereas the outer row of terminals of the present invention extend toward the paddle ring from a connection bar 78 (FIG. 10). Since Osada discloses neither two rows of terminals nor a connection bar, independent claims 1 and 12 are not anticipated. Osada does not anticipate the dependent claims 2-4 and 13-17 for the same reasons. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1-5, 8, 9 and 11-17 as anticipated by Osada be withdrawn.

Claims 10 and 11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Osada in combination with U.S. Patent No. 6,005,286 (Kinsman). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

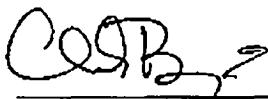
Claims 10 and 11 depend from claim 1 and are patentable over the cited references for the same reasons that claim 1 is patentable over the cited references. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 10 and 11 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application, including claims 1-5 and 8-17, is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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